

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VICTOR 00304 041352Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 USIA-06 /018 W

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R 040800Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 167

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VICTORIA 304

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SE

SUBJECT: CU FY 1977 PROGRAM FOR SEYCHELLES

REF: STATE 245283

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES ALLOCATION U.S. DOLS. 7,000 FOR FY 77
PROGRAM IN SEYCHELLES.

2. EMBASSY PROPOSES FOLLOWING TWO SEYCHELLOIS UNDER INTERNATIONAL
VISITOR (IV) PROGRAM:

JOSEPH BASSET, MANAGING EDITOR, SEYCHELLES WEEKLY, OFFICIAL NEWS-
PAPER OF MAJORITY SEYCHELLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) AND JAMES
MICHEL, EDITOR OF THE PEOPLE, ORGAN OF SEYCHELLES PEOPLE'S UNITED
PARTY (SPUP).

3. SEYCHELLES BECAME INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC ON JUNE 29, 1976 UNDER
SDP/SPUP COALITION GOVERNMENT. SELECTION OF BASSET AND MICHEL, TWO
LEADING LOCAL JOURNALISTS, HAS ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF BOTH SEY-
CHELLES' PRESIDENT JAMES MANCHAM AND HIS COALITION PARTNER, PRIME
MINISTER RENE, BOTH OF WHOM HAD PROFITABLE EXPERIENCES AS LEADER
GRANTEES IN LATE 1960'S. IN ADDITION TO THEIR FEELING THAT VISIT
TO U.S. WOULD BE ENRICHING PROFESSIONALLY FOR PROPOSED GRANTEES,
MANCHAM AND RENE ALSO SEE PROPOSAL AS SIGN OF SUCCESS AND STRENGTH
OF COALITION.

4. BASSET AND MICHEL WOULD LIKE INITIATE TRIP IN SPRING 1977 AND
DESIRE TRAVEL TOGETHER. IN INITIAL INTERVIEW, PROPOSED IV'S
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EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VISITING NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS MAGAZINES IN

MAJOR CITIES, RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS AND TO HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO SEE CONGRESS AND STATE LEGISLATURES AT WORK. IN
ADDITION, WOULD LIKE TO VISIT SMALL TOWNS WITH WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS
AKIN TO SEYCHELLOIS PRESS (CIRCULATION 1,000-2,000). BASSET
AND MICHEL WOULD PLAN GATHER MATERIAL DURING VISIT FOR NUMBER OF
FEATURE ARTICLES ON U.S.

5. EMBASSY WOULD HOPE UTILIZE FUNDS REMAINING AFTER IV GRANTS TO
FUND SPECIAL PROGRAMS OF GOS OFFICIALS WHO MAY BE TRAVELLING
THROUGH U.S.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VICTOR00304
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760412-0356
From: VICTORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761179/aaaacqrij.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 245283
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CU FY 1977 PROGRAM FOR SEYCHELLES
TAGS: OEXC, SE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006